

II. Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A shaped charge assembly comprising:

a casing having an open end and a closed end;

~~a base formed on the closed end of said casing;~~

walls extending away from the outer edge of said ~~base~~ closed end terminating on the open end; and

a ~~spine~~ reinforcing system ~~disposed adjacent said casing having a recess formed therein to receive said casing~~ circumscribing at least a portion of said casing.
2. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 1 further comprising a space confined by said walls and said ~~base~~ closed end, wherein said space is capable of receiving an amount of explosive.
3. (original) The shaped charge assembly of claim 1 wherein said casing is formed into a generally tubular shape.
4. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 1, wherein said ~~spine~~ reinforcing system comprises a spine and an annular void ~~and said recess are capable of retaining substantially all of the casing fragments produced during detonation of the explosive.~~

5. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 4 further comprising a retaining shell ~~releasably securable to said spine, said retaining shell~~ coaxially circumscribing a portion of said casing ~~when secured to said spine~~.
6. (cancelled).
7. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 5 further comprising a bushing coaxially disposed between said ~~case~~ casing and said retaining shell.
8. (original) The shaped charge assembly of claim 1 wherein the thickness of said walls decreases with distance from said base to the open end of said case.
9. (original) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7 wherein the thickness of said bushing is variable to accommodate varied orientations of said casing.
10. (original) The shaped charge assembly of claim 1 further comprising at least one other shaped charge assembly.
11. (original) The shaped charge assembly of claim 10 further comprising a gun body capable of retaining said shaped charge assembly of said at least one other shaped charge assembly.
12. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 1 further comprising a gun body, wherein said ~~spine~~ reinforcing system extends along a portion of the length of the gun body, wherein the presence of said ~~spine~~ reinforcing system and said casing produces an asymmetric radial weight distribution around the axis of the gun body capable of azimuthally orienting said gun body within a wellbore.

13. (currently amended) The shaped charge assembly of claim 1, wherein the edges of said ~~base~~ closed end are substantially curvilinear and the thickness of said base generally exceeds the thickness of said walls thereby producing a crucible shaped casing.
14. (new) The shaped charge assembly of claim 7, further comprising an annular void disposed between said retaining shell and said bushing.
15. (new) The shaped charge assembly of claim 14, further comprising explosive disposed within said casing, wherein said annular void circumscribes a portion of said casing and is capable of absorbing energy resulting from detonation of the explosive.